

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03853 121315Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 FEAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1654
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL GOTEBORG POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 3853

USIAEA

DEPARTMENT PASS MOSCOW

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, SW
SUBJ: GOS EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER NEUTRON BOMB

1. SPEAKING BEFORE THE SWEDISH UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION IN
STOCKHOLM ON SEPTEMBER 9, FOREIGN MINISTER KARIN SODER
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REFERRED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SO-CALLED NEUTRON BOMB AS
FOLLOWS: "EACH NEW ADDITION TO THE ARSENALS OF NUCLEAR ARMS
IS A SETBACK FOR WORLD DISARMAMENT. THE INTRODUCTION OF
NEW TYPES OF ARMS REPRESENTS ANOTHER STEP ON THE FATAL ROAD
OF THE ARMS RACE. IT ALSO MAKES MORE DIFFICULT THE TASK OF
PREVENTING ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES FROM BECOMING NUCLEAR WEAPON
STATES. CONSIDERATIONS IN PROGRESS WHICH ARE GOING TO PRODUCE

THE SO-CALLED NEUTRON BOMB ARE, THEREFORE, CAUSE FOR ANXIETY. NO ONE CAN GUARANTEE THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF ARMS OF THIS NATURE WILL NOT INCREASE THE RISKS OF A NUCLEAR ARMS CONFLICT IN PERIODS OF STRAIN. THIS APPLIES AS WELL TO THE OTHER SO-CALLED MINI-NUCLEAR ARMS. FROM THESE, THERE IS A GREAT RISK THAT THERE COULD BE AN ESCALATION TO AN UNLIMITED NUCLEAR WAR. EVEN IF THE PLANS FOR A NEUTRON BOMB COULD BE REGARDED AS A RESPONSE TO THE STRENGTH OF WARSAW PACT FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, THE REALIZATION OF THESE PLANS COULD STIMULATE FURTHER TECHNOLOGICAL ARMAMENT ON THE SOVIET SIDE." (NOTE: THE KEY WORD WE HAVE TRANSLATED "ANXIETY" AT END THIRD SENTENCE IS "ORO", WHICH IS STRONGER THAN "CONCERN". IT COULD ALSO BE TRANSLATED "SERIOUS CONCERN" OR "ALARM".) MRS. SODER'S STATEMENT CAME IN A SPEECH COVERING THE MAJOR ASPECTS OF THE FORTHCOMING UNGA.

2. STOCKHOLM DAILY DAGENS NYHETER (LIBERAL) REPORTS THAT THERE WAS LONG AND CONTENTIOUS DEBATE ON THE NEUTRON BOMB STATEMENT WITH THE GOS, WITH MODERATE PARTY CHAIRMAN AND FINANCE MINISTER GOSTA BOHMAN STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT OF CONCERN. BOHMAN WAS FINALLY OVERRULED BY PRIME MINISTER FALLDIN AND DEPUTY PM AHLMARK, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, BOTH OF WHOM WERE PERSUADED OF THE NEED TO HAVE THE GOS ON RECORD BEFORE THE UNGA AND BEFORE THE RIKSDAG GENERAL POLICY DEBATE. (WE BELIEVE THE NEED WAS ALSO FELT TO MAKE A STATEMENT, IF ONE WAS TO BE MADE, BEFORE THE VISIT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MRS. SODER TO THE GDR SEPT 14-15.) THE PRESS REPORT SAID THE CABINET WAS KEELY AWARE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OPPOSITION LEADER OLOF PALME'S PUBLIC STAND AGAINST THE BOMB AND HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF IT WAS AS "A COMPLETELY CAPITALISTIC WEAPON".

3. IN THE ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT THUS FAR, DAGENS NYHETER DECRIED MRS. SODER'S "TAME", "HALF-ACCEPTING" AND "APOLOGETIC" STAND TOWARDS AN "INSANE WEAPON" WHICH ALL "GOOD STATES" SHOULD ATTEMPT TO STOP. (GENERAL PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE NEUTRON BOMB IN SWEDEN HAS BEEN STRONGLY ANTI-BOMB.)

4. COMMENT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.
PERRY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED MOSCOW.

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